

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of September 19, 2011, Applicant elects without traverse to prosecute claims 31 – 37, which claims are drawn to a heart valve prosthesis.

Claims 31 – 37 encompass the elected invention.

Applicant has amended original claims 31 and 34 in order to better define the invention. The amendments are supported in the as-filed specification.

Applicant has amended the dependencies of original claims 36 and 37 in order to remove a clerical error.

Applicant has added new claims 41 – 55 to define certain additional features of the invention. These amendments are fully supported in the specification as-filed.

Concerning the relation between the enclosed claims to the ring and the figures, as well as concerning the basis of the claims, Applicant has provided the annexed table and refers to it hereinafter.

TABLE

New US claim	Shown in Figure	Basis
claim 31	fig 15 & 16	original claim 31
claims 32, 36	fig 15 (note: according to text this is applicable to fig 16 as well)	original claim 32
claims 33, 35, 37	fig 16	original claim 33
claim 34	(separate) ring not shown in fig 15/16	original claim 34 + P14 lines 1-2 of WO (para [0051] lines 1-2)

claims 41, 42, 43	restriction not shown, but fig 15 slit 79 in combination with fig 12 gives shown restrictions, the fingers 77 of the sleeve 74)	basis: P13 L20-22 of WO (para [0049] lines 3-6 of US publ.)
claims 44, 45, 46	fig 15 & 16 (note: feature is memory metal, which can not be expressed in figures	basis: P13 L22-26 of WO (para [0049] lines 6-11 of US publ.)
claims 47, 48, 49	fig 16	basis P13 L30-32 of WO (para [0050] lines 5-6 of US publ.)
claims 50, 51, 52	(additional) ring not shown in fig 15/16	basis: P13 L32-33 of WO (para [0055] lines 6-7 of US publ)
claim 53	fig 15 & 16 (note: feature is ingrowth enhancing material, which can not be expressed in figures	basis P13 L13-15 of WO (para [0047] last 3 lines of US publ.)
claim 54	fig 16 (about portret of fig 16)	basis: P33 L29-P34 L2 (para [0115] lines 3-6 from below of US publ)
claim 55	valve leaflets not shown in fig 15/16, but is shown in similar fig 11-12 and text says explicitly that fig 15&16 comprises theses leaves.	basis: P33 lines 11 and 27 of WO (para [0114] line 3 and para [0115] line 3-3 of US publ)

Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications.

Since fourteen (14) dependent claims have been added and three (3) dependent claims, namely 38, 39 and 40, have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, there are a total of eleven (11) added dependent claims. Accordingly, please debit our Deposit Account No. 01-0035 in the sum of \$330 for these additional claims, which is at the small entity rate.

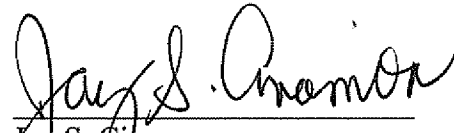
Please charge any other fees which may be due and which have not been submitted herewith to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

If Applicants is due any credits, please credit same to Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,

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